

who lives in my district. He stood up in my townhall meeting in Winchester, Kentucky, and told me he suffered from aggressive stage 4 mantle cell lymphoma and lost his current health insurance.

The least expensive replacement policy on the Kentucky Kynect exchange was \$1,800 more per month. ObamaCare was supposed to fix the problem of pre-existing conditions, but for Tony Calvert and for his family, ObamaCare in Kentucky is a personal and financial disaster.

Consider the Blue Grass Stockyards, a beef cattle auction business that employs over 60 full-time employees who have enjoyed the benefits of high-quality, employer-provided health insurance for many years.

In 2010, the company's cost per employee was about \$250 each month, and it provided about a \$1,500 deductible, good prescription coverage, and \$3,000 out-of-pocket maximum.

By 2014, this company faced a 50 percent increase in cost because of ObamaCare and nowhere near the coverage quality that they had been able to provide to their employees in the past.

Moving all of their employees to Kentucky Kynect was no help. The very best scenario they have come up with is to purchase a policy at over a 9 percent increase in premiums, a \$5,000 in-network deductible, and a \$10,000 out-of-network deductible, and these are narrow networks.

The company told me that they have always taken pride in providing their valued employees with quality coverage, but because of ObamaCare, they can't do that any more.

Then there is Joe and Laura Westbrook. They have been owner-operators of Speedflo and Snapflo, a family printing company in Lexington, Kentucky, since 1976. Their family-owned business has grown to 32 employees—including many working moms—providing good benefits and affordable group health insurance until May 2014, when their renewal rates skyrocketed 101 percent.

To make matters worse, the available post-ObamaCare plans had deductibles that were three times larger than the pre-ObamaCare plans. These increases threatened to make it impossible for them to continue to provide their employees with health insurance, and for the first time, they had to ask their employees to contribute to cover the cost of the new plans.

The VA scandal is a window into the future of ObamaCare. It is a window into what government health care looks like: higher cost, higher premiums, less choices.

Let's get together as a country and acknowledge that this law doesn't work. It is unfortunate that ObamaCare doesn't work. The American people deserve health care reform that actually lowers costs, that provides more choices, and does not put bureaucrats in charge of health care.

#### EPA RULE WILL BE DEVASTATING FOR COAL COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the EPA is expected to unleash what is essentially a Federal cap-and-trade proposal aimed at our Nation's existing coal-fired power plants.

I will oppose this rule, as it will adversely affect coal miners and coal mining communities throughout West Virginia and the Nation. At stake is our economy and the livelihoods of our coal miners, our steelworkers, electrical workers, those who keep our freight trains running, and families and businesses that rely on affordable energy from coal.

Even though we don't have the details of the rule yet, from everything we know, we can be sure of this: it will be very bad for jobs. The only real question is where, on a scale from devastating to a death blow, the new rule will fall.

I have written to OMB opposing the new source performance standards rule for future power plants and calling upon the Director to return the draft rule to EPA and calling on EPA to go back to the drawing board on their proposal.

I have joined 181 Members of this body in a letter to Administrator McCarthy asking that the normal 60-day comment period be extended to at least 120 additional days.

I have cosponsored and voted for H.R. 3826, the Electricity Security and Affordability Act, along with my colleague, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD), which would block the new source performance rule for future power plants. The House passed the bill on March 16, by a vote of 229–183, and sent it over to the other body.

I have cosponsored, along with my colleague, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY), H.R. 2127, a resolution of disapproval that would prevent the new source performance standard rule for future power plants from going into effect. If enacted, this would have the same effect as the Whitfield bill, blocking EPA from advancing the rule on existing plants.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, are the effects on our coal miners' health care and pension plans. There are more than 100,000 retirees, their dependents, and surviving spouses who receive health care and/or pensions from the UMW, United Mine Workers of America, health and retirement funds.

Because these benefits are paid for by contributions made by the coal companies for every hour worked by an active miner, this rule could dramatically undercut the solvency of these funds.

In 2012, for example, a total of \$1.2 billion went into coal field communities in pension payments and direct payments to health care providers for retiree health care benefits. That included nearly 400 million into rural West Virginia communities.

This is what keeps the health care systems in these communities open. Doctors, pharmacies, clinics, therapists, and nursing homes all depend on this funding to survive.

So in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say how devastating these proposed rules—although we have not seen the details yet—could be for coal mining communities.

I—and I am sure others who represent coal mining communities across this Nation—will not sit idle in the face of this latest challenge by the EPA to our way of life.

It is about jobs, it is about jobs, and it is about jobs, and I will look at any and all options that will be available to block this proposed rule from being finalized.

#### NOT ONE MORE TRAGEDY FOLLOWED BY INACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, last Friday night, my home community was rocked by unspeakable violence. It left six students and their assailant dead and 13 others injured. Friday's rampage in Isla Vista, California, has touched the community in a powerful way.

IV, as it is affectionately called, is a special place where people know their neighbors. Everyone is presumed to be a friend, and bikes are more common than cars.

On Friday, IV joined a growing list of small communities touched by unspeakable violence. Today, we continue to mourn those we lost: George Chen, "James" Cheng Yuan Hong, Weihan "David" Wang, Katherine Breann Cooper, Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez, and Veronika Weiss.

We reach out to the injured who need our support as they heal, and we pray for the many others affected, including the families and friends the victims left behind. Our community grieves, and we struggle to make sense of the senseless.

For many in a variety of places, this sadness and grief is also a frustration, frustration that more could have and should have been done to prevent this tragedy from the start.

We think of other places where similar rampages have occurred so recently: Tucson, Carson City, Seal Beach, Atlanta, Oakland, Seattle, Aurora, Oak Creek, Minneapolis, Newtown, Washington Navy Yard, Santa Monica, Fort Hood.

How many more of these mass shootings do we need before we act?

We have all seen how a violent incident can bring public attention to the need for sensible gun safety measures. We know that we must keep these weapons out of the hands of violent individuals; but all too quickly, the attention fades, the drumbeat quiets, and we are left with inaction.

I sincerely hope that this time will be different, but it won't be unless we, as Congress, act.